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Commission on Science and Technology for Development
Eighteenth session
Geneva, 4–8 May 2015
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
3. Science and technology for development:

   Priority themes:

   (a) Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda

   (b) Digital development
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the nineteenth session of the Commission
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the nineteenth session of the Commission
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session

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Annotations

Item 1
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that commissions shall adopt, at the beginning of each session, the agenda of the session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda and documentation for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were approved by the Council in its decision 2014/237 of 16 July 2014.

2. In accordance with the established practice, the Commission, at its eighth meeting on 16 May 2014, elected by acclamation the Bureau of the eighteenth session, as follows:

Chair:	Omobola Johnson (Nigeria)
Vice-Chairs:	Majed Almazyed (Saudi Arabia)
	Peter Major (Hungary)
	Victoria Romero (Mexico)
	Andrew Reynolds (United States of America)

3. As at previous sessions of the Commission, one of the Vice-Chairs will be designated to also serve as Rapporteur.

4. The proposed organization of work of the Commission at its eighteenth session (see annex I) is based on relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time frame available and in accordance with the conference services allocated to the Commission. The timetable should be considered tentative and indicative; if the Commission completes its consideration of an item ahead of schedule, it may wish to proceed immediately to the next item.

5. The Commission is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 4 to 8 May 2015. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the afternoon meetings, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

6. The current membership of the Commission is contained in annex II for information.

7. On recommendation of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in July 2011 the Economic and Social Council adopted decisions 2011/236, 2011/237, 2011/238 and 2011/239, which extended arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society entities, academic and technical entities and business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development until 2015. It also adopted decision 2011/235, which extended the mandate of the Commission's Gender Advisory Board for a further three years, beginning on 1 January 2012, in order to allow it to complete its programme of work within the extrabudgetary resources allocated for this purpose.

8. The Commission will be asked to review, at its eighteenth session, the benefits of participation of non-governmental organizations, academic entities and business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission and recommend to the Council appropriate steps. It will also be asked to review the work of its Gender Advisory Board and recommend to the Council appropriate steps.

Contribution of the Commission to the 2015 Economic and Social Council high-level segment

9. In September 2015 the General Assembly is expected to adopt a unified and universal post-2015 development agenda that responds to the many changes that have taken place in the global development environment since the Millennium Summit in 2000. The transition to an ambitious, integrated, coherent, universal post-2015 development framework based on the sustainable development goals requires a clear, integrated vision of policies, conceptually and with a view to implementation, across sectors, actors and levels.

10. The Economic and Social Council will have a central role in advancing an integrated approach to a unified and universal agenda. In its resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly decided that the themes for the 2015 and 2016 Economic and Social Council cycles, which mark the transition from a development agenda based on the Millennium Development Goals to one based on the sustainable development goals, should be decided together to give ample time to the Economic and Social Council system and Member States to make the necessary adjustments to their agendas in support of the new development framework. The 2015 and 2016 Economic and Social Council cycles will be critical to effectively align the work of the entire Economic and Social Council system with the new institutional structure defined by the General Assembly and enable the Council to provide substantive leadership to guide the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals.

11. The Economic and Social Council will support the transition to the new development framework through its 2015 theme, "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What it will take". The Economic and Social Council system will consider the 2015 theme throughout its work during the 2015 session, which will culminate in the Council's high-level segment in July 2015.

12. In his letter of 19 December 2014, the President of the Economic and Social Council requested the chairs of the functional commissions to consider the Council's 2015 theme "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What will it take", as an agenda item of its session and to provide substantive contributions, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration during the Council's 2015 high-level segment, which will be convened from 6 to 10 July 2015.

13. Pursuant to this request as well as pursuant to the provisions of the Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/29 of 24 July 2008, entitled "Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16", a ministerial panel discussion on the Council's 2015 theme will be held by the Commission on Monday, 4 May 2015, in the morning. The focus of the discussion will be on the input by the Commission in the area of its expertise to the ongoing discussion of the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations system, in particular the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals. The outcome of the discussion will be in the form of a Chair's summary to be submitted to the Council's 2015 high-level segment.

Documentation

E/CN.16/2015/1 Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work

Item 2
Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

14. The World Summit on the Information Society, organized by the International Telecommunication Union on behalf of the United Nations, took place in two phases: the first, in Geneva (2003), the second, in Tunis (2005). In the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the first phase of the Summit adopted a common vision and commitment to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society.[1] The second phase endorsed the outcomes of the first phase and adopted the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which addressed, inter alia, the themes of financial mechanisms and Internet governance.

15. The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society requested the Economic and Social Council to oversee the United Nations system-wide follow-up of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the Summit. To this end, the Council was requested to review the mandate of the Commission, including its strengthening, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach (Tunis Agenda, paragraph 105).

16. In its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission would effectively assist the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the Summit outcomes and advise the Council thereon, including through recommendations to the Council aimed at furthering the implementation of the Summit outcomes.

17. In its resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007 on the flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to inform the Commission annually on the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit, including all e-applications. In this connection, the Council requested United Nations organizations acting as action-line facilitators, regional commissions, main theme facilitators, the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, and other entities, as appropriate, to submit to the secretariat of the Commission their respective reports as inputs to the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission.

18. The report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/70/63–E/2015/10) aims at providing an overview of the progress made in the implementation of the Summit outcomes, and highlights examples of good and effective practices, with a view to sharing these practices and the lessons learned. The report was prepared based on the findings and recommendations of the Commission's panel discussion held in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2014, on inputs by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and on other relevant literature. The Commission will review and assess progress on the implementation of the Summit outcomes at the regional and international levels, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/46.

19. In its resolution 2014/27 of 16 July 2014 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to

[1] The outcome documents are available at http://www.itu.int/wsis/.

submit, after its eighteenth session, the results of its 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Council, to the General Assembly as it will make an overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit in 2015. In addition, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to invite further inputs from Member States and all facilitators and stakeholders and to organize, during its eighteenth session in 2015, a substantive discussion on the 10-year review report on the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, and to report thereon, through the Council, to the General Assembly. The substantive discussion will take place on Tuesday, 5 May 2015, as indicated in the proposed organization of work (annex I).

20. In the same resolution, the Economic and Social Council noted the work initiated by the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation to review the identified public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, list where there are existing mechanisms addressing these issues, identify the status of mechanisms, if any, and whether they are addressing the issues, and attempt to identify gaps in order to ascertain what type of recommendations may be required. Furthermore, it recommended that this work may be further continued by the secretariat of the Commission with a view to the submission of findings to the Commission at its intersessional meeting for further discussion and their integration into the 10-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit. Following this recommendation, the Commission discussed the work conducted by its secretariat on this topic at its intersessional panel in November 2014, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Documentation

A/70/63–E/2015/10	Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
UNCTAD/DTL/STICT/2015/3	*Implementing WSIS Outcomes: A Ten-year Review* (forthcoming)[2]
E/CN.16/2015/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting
E/CN.16/2015/CRP.2	Mapping of international Internet public policy issues

Item 3
Science and technology for development

21. In its resolution 68/220, the General Assembly recognized the "vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges". This includes efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, enhance access to energy and increase energy efficiency, promote global health, improve education, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, and improve productivity and competitiveness, thereby supporting sustainable development.

22. In its resolution 2006/46 (paragraph 4), the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should be the focal point in the system-wide follow-up of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes, while at the same time maintaining its

[2] WSIS, World Summit on the Information Society.

original mandate on science and technology for development. It requested that the Commission follow a multi-year work programme underpinned by a strong development orientation.

23. In accordance with this mandate, the Commission focuses in each annual cycle on a specific theme related to science, technology and innovation and a second theme related to building the information society with a view to narrowing the digital divide, and examines, within its original mandate, the implications of each of these themes for development.

24. The priority themes under this item addressed by the Commission are as follows:

(a) Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda

(b) Digital development.

25. In order to contribute to a further understanding of these themes, and to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its eighteenth session, a panel meeting was convened in Geneva, from 26 to 28 November 2014. The report on the panel discussion will be before the Commission.

Documentation

E/CN.16/2015/2	Report of the Secretary-General on digital development
E/CN.16/2015/3	Report of the Secretary-General on strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda
E/CN.16/2015/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting

Item 4
Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

26. In its resolution 68/220 on science, technology and innovation for development, the General Assembly extended its appreciation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for undertaking science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) reviews and encouraged UNCTAD to continue providing its expertise and analytical skills for these reviews.

27. In its resolution 2011/17, the Economic and Social Council encouraged the Commission to facilitate new STIP reviews, in close collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank and other relevant international development banks and institutions, and to consider new modalities to monitor progress for their implementation. In particular, the Economic and Social Council encouraged the Commission to identify opportunities and best practices and synergies in and between e-science, e-engineering and e-education programmes worldwide in the course of performing STIP reviews. Furthermore, the Council requested the Commission to complete and disseminate the new STIP methodology guidelines and share outcomes and best practices resulting from their implementation. Subsequently, in its draft resolution 2013/10, the Council also encouraged the Commission to enhance the treatment of information and communications technologies as an integral, empowering asset for science, technology and engineering for innovation within STIP reviews and to plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which STIP reviews have been performed.

28. The Commission will hear the presentation of the report on the STIP review of Thailand, which was carried out in 2013–2014. Countries where STIP reviews have been implemented in recent years will be invited to present updates of follow-on activities.

Item 5
Election of the Chair and other officers for the nineteenth session of the Commission

29. In accordance with established practice, the Commission will elect a Chair and four Vice-Chairs for the nineteenth session at the end of the eighteenth session. One of the Vice-Chairs will also serve as Rapporteur.

Item 6
Provisional agenda and documentation for the nineteenth session of the Commission

30. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its nineteenth session, together with an indication of the documentation to be submitted for its consideration.

Item 7
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session

31. In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, the Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on the work of its eighteenth session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date time	*Agenda item discussion topic*	*Programme*
Monday, 4 May		
10 a.m.	1. Adoption of the agenda ard other organizational matters	Opening statements
		Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	Contribution of the Commission to the 2015 theme of the Economic and Social Council: Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals: What will it take	Ministerial round table followed by an interactive dialogue
3 p.m.	2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels	Introduction of the report of the Secretary-General
	Ministerial round table: Review of progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes	Ministerial round table followed by a general discussion
Tuesday, 5 May		
10 a.m.	3. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels: Substantive session on the WSIS+10 review (paragraph 57 of E/RES/2014/27)	General discussion (continued)
3 p.m.	4. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels: Substantive session on the WSIS+10 review (paragraph 57 of E/RES/2014/27)	General discussion (continued)
Wednesday, 6 May		
10 a.m.	5. Science and technology for development	Introduction and general discussion
	Priority themes	
	(a) Strategic foresight for the post-2015 development agenda	
	(b) Digital development	

Date time	*Agenda item discussion topic*	*Programme*
3 p.m.	6. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews	Introduction followed by an interactive discussion
Thursday, 7 May		
10 a.m.	Informal consultations	Introduction of draft proposals, followed by a discussion
3 p.m.	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals
Friday, 8 May		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	7. Election of the Chair and other officers for the nineteenth session of the Commission	Election of officers
	Informal consultations	Discussions on draft proposals, as required
	Action on draft proposals	
	8. Provisional agenda and documentation for the nineteenth session of the Commission	Adoption of the draft provisional agenda for the next session
	9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session	Adoption of the draft report
	Closure of the session	

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its eighteenth session

The Commission is composed of 43 members serving a four-year term.

	Membership	*Term expires on 31 December*
1.	Angola	2018
2.	Austria	2016
3.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2018
4.	Brazil	2016
5.	Bulgaria	2018
6.	Cameroon	2016
7.	Canada	2018
8.	Central African Republic	2016
9.	Chile	2016
10.	China	2018
11.	Costa Rica	2016
12.	Côte d'Ivoire	2018
13.	Cuba	2018
14.	Dominican Republic	2018
15.	Finland	2016
16.	Germany	2016
17.	Hungary	2016
18.	India	2018
19.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2018
20.	Japan	2016
21.	Kenya	2018
22.	Latvia	2018
23.	Liberia	2016
24.	Mauritania	2018
25.	Mauritius	2018
26.	Mexico	2016

Membership		*Term expires on 31 December*
27.	Nigeria	2016
28.	Oman	2016
29.	Pakistan	2018
30.	Peru	2018
31.	Poland	2018
32.	Portugal	2016
33.	Russian Federation	2016
34.	Sri Lanka	2016
35.	Sweden	2018
36.	Switzerland	2016
37.	Thailand	2018
38.	Turkey	2018
39.	Turkmenistan	2016
40.	Uganda	2018
41.	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2018
42.	United States of America	2018
43.	Zambia	2016